Partial Listing

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(12) **United States Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US 6,459,779 B2**
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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CREATING A BILLING RECORD WITH A CALLED PARTY'S NAME**

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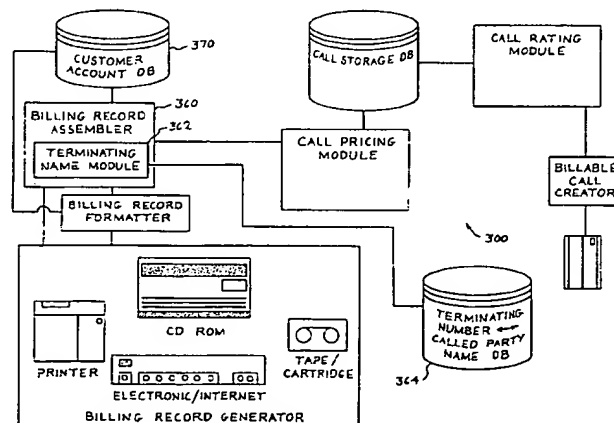
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system are provided for creating a billing record with a called party's name. Providing the called party's name on the billing record facilitates the calling party's review of the billing record by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to determine the identity of the called parties. In addition to identifying fraudulent and misbilled calls, the called party's name allows a person reviewing the billing record to quickly identify long distance calls, quickly discern business from personal calls, and audit calls made from phone lines with multiple users (e.g., employees or kids). Additionally, the billing record reviewer saves time and money by avoiding the need to call directory assistance or a billing service to identify the calls.

28 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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TITLE: System and method for creating a billing record with a
                called party's name

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (10):
   In the system 300 of FIG. 3, the terminating name module 362 is part of the
billing record assembler 360. The terminating name module can, however, be
implemented in other parts of the billing system, and the eligible terminating
numbers can be extracted from the call record that is present in that part of
the system. For example, FIG. 5 shows a billing system 500 in which the
terminating name module 552 is part of the call pricing module 550. By being
part of the call pricing module 550, the terminating name module 552 can
extract eligible terminating numbers from the call record present in the call
pricing module 550 and can query the
terminating-number-to-called-party's-name
database 554 to determine the called party's name during pricing when **volume
discounts,** calling plans, and usage summaries are being calculated. In other
alternatives, the terminating name module 632, 742 can be part of the call
rating module 630 (as shown in FIG. 6) or the call storage database 740 (as
shown in FIG. 7), and the eligible terminating numbers can be extracted from
the call record in the call rating module 630 and call storage database 740,
respectively. Since adding the called party's name to the call record may
lengthen the call record, several components of the billing system may need to
be modified accordingly. To introduce the least amount of intrusion into the
billing system, it is preferred that the terminating name module be part of the
billing record assembler, as shown in FIG. 3. Further, by being part of the
billing record assembler, the terminating name module would be more response
to
those customers who activate or de-activate the service in the middle of a
billing cycle (i.e., mid-month).